



Washington, D.C. 20505

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~~DDO/DC~~ NSC

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable William P. Clark  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Increase in Nicaraguan Resistance Forces

REFERENCE: NSC/ICS-400502, Subject: Increase in Nicaraguan  
Resistance Forces, dated July 14, 1983

1. With regard to the President's query on the increase in Nicaraguan resistance forces, [redacted] indicates the following breakdown of the Northern and Southern Fronts of the insurgency. In the North the FDN had (as of 20 July) a total of 6,530 armed troops inside Nicaragua. This total consists of 2,035 full time regulars and 4,495 insurgents who have rallied to the FDN cause. As of early August, the Miskito Indians had 1,710 armed troops within Nicaragua. In the South, Eden Pastora is commanding a force totaling about 1,850 armed troops.

2. We believe that the activities of the armed resistance forces within the past month and the signals coming from the Nicaraguan government and Fidel Castro indicate that some of the key judgments in the 30 June 1983 NIE on "Nicaragua: The Outlook for the Insurgency" should be revised. One key judgment stated that the "present level and focus of insurgent activity are not likely to influence the Sandinistas to make significant domestic or foreign policy changes." However, during the month of July, the Sandinistas made a major conciliatory speech on 19 July offering to negotiate and Castro's statements of 26 July appeared to indicate a softening in his position. While these overtures from the Sandinistas and Castro are probably only a tactical effort to stall for time, we believe they are indications that the Sandinistas feel pressured, and it is apparent that the activities of the resistance forces have been one of the factors which has contributed to the

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successful application of pressure. Among other factors, of course, are the heightened U.S. military profile in the region and the participation of various other Latin American countries in attempting to facilitate negotiations in the area, specifically including the contadora peace process.

3. We are prepared to give the President an oral briefing at his convenience.

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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CONCUR:

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12 AUG 1983

Deputy Director for Operations

Date

DDO/LA/CATF/

(10 August 1983)

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